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might be made of the elementary treatment of certain phases of the subject but a text is not supposed to equal a treatise in this respect. One may seriously object, however, to the issuance of a revised edition which does not follow the progress in the business in certain directions. Thus in the chapter on Insurance for Wage-earners the author discusses compensation laws but includes in his list of the same only twenty-three. One is at a loss to understand why employers' liability insurance is discussed in the chapter on Insurance for Wage-earners.

The volume on fire insurance appears to possess certain serious defects as well as commendable features. The strongest criticism which can be advanced, viewing it in the light of a text, is its seeming lack of plan and arrangement of chapters. It is difficult to account at times for the appearance of apparently closely related or identical topics in different places, the subsequence of certain principles whose knowledge is prerequisite for other subjects and the brief treatment accorded particular portions of the study. Some explanation is also required of such statements as, "local associations of underwriters have little actual power over rates or commissions" (p. 69).

This second volume has, however, certain distinctly commendable features. Prior to his work no adequate description of some of the more recent developments of the business was available. He has therefore rendered a service in producing a relatively up-to-date textbook. Secondly, he has incorporated to a greater degree than any other writer a discussion of fire insurance from the social viewpoint. In his chapter on the relation of the state to insurance he has discussed several issues which are now and in the near future will be very important in the conduct of the business.

ROBERT RIEGEL.

*University of Pennsylvania.*

#### LABOR LEGISLATION

RHODES, J. E., 2ND. *Workmen's Compensation*. Pp. 300. Price, \$1.50. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1917.

Workmen's compensation, in the space of a few years, has developed from an academic theory to an accepted institution. The problem is no longer whether the principle shall be applied but to what degree and by what means.

This book presents a careful statement of the background and fundamentals of compensation and of its present status in the United States which should be useful as a basis for more detailed study or for a general survey of the problem. The author's criticism of present conditions is thoughtful and will offend neither conservative nor radical. Particularly valuable are the illustrative cases and the brief digest of the essential points of laws now in force.

R. H. B.

WEBB, SIDNEY. *The Restoration of Trade Union Conditions*. Pp. 109. Price, 50 cents. New York: B. W. Huebsch, 1917.

Mr. Webb reminds us of the government's promise to restore union conditions. He recognizes the impossibility of going back, and advocates a new settlement with the unions on the terms which will be fair and satisfactory to them.

Since Mr. Webb's booklet was published, the Reconstruction Committee of the British Cabinet and more especially the ministry of munitions have taken up the problem in a broad and progressive spirit. Some employers proposed a copartnership form of management which will admit all classes of workmen to a direct interest in the increase of output and will seek to lessen if not remove the sharp distinction between the employer and the workman. These proposals which are made by responsible officials and employers, if worked out, would present a fairly satisfactory solution of the problem which Mr. Webb discusses.

J. T. Y.

#### MERCHANDISING: WHOLESALE AND RETAIL

CHERINGTON, PAUL T. *The Wool Industry*. Pp. xvi, 261. Price, \$2.50. Chicago: A. W. Shaw Company, 1916.

In its field this book is unique, for it does not attempt to add anything to the existing large body of excellent material covering sheep breeding, wool growing, the relation of the tariff to the growth of these industries, or the technique of textile manufacturing, but instead concentrates upon the hitherto unexplored territory of buying and selling wool products.

After setting forth the essential differences between woolen and worsted, and explaining the history of these two branches of the wool industry, the author presents his real contribution to the literature of wool. He describes in detail the function and importance of wool merchants, selling houses, dry-goods jobbing enterprises, and department stores. He points out definitely the interrelations between methods of marketing and selling problems on the one hand and wool growing and manufacturing on the other. Style as a factor in making and selling cloth is amply demonstrated.

If one were searching for flaws in this work he would dwell upon the illogical arrangement of chapters, pointing out that those dealing with middlemen are interrupted by other chapters treating processes and sources of raw materials. He would find fault also that too many important facts are buried in footnotes and not incorporated and explained in the text itself. He might complain that too many of the facts are set down without emphasis upon their significance.

The majority of the readers of this book, however, will welcome it as a piece of fresh evidence. It does not contain materials stolen and garbled from other writers. Its author has gone to original sources for his facts, most of which were gathered from men in the trade itself and have never before appeared in print.

Politicians endeavoring to shape a tariff policy would profit by studying Dr. Cherington's volume, men engaged in the various branches of the wool industry might gain a perspective from it that they may otherwise lack; and students of economics should hail it as valuable material for their deliberations.

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